

REAR ADMIRAL RUFUS L. TAYLOR
UNITED STATES NAVY

Rufus Lackland Taylor was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on January 6, 1910, son of Mrs. Caroline Newman Taylor and the late Rufus L. Taylor. He attended Holderness School in Plymouth, New Hampshire, and Hall's School, Columbia, Missouri, before entering the U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, on appointment from Missouri, on August 25, 1929. Graduated on June 1, 1933, he was not commissioned Ensign in the U. S. Navy due to previous Congressional legislation, until May 29, 1934. Through subsequent promotions he attained the rank of Rear Admiral, to date from February 1, 1964.

After graduation in June 1933, he was commissioned in the U. S. Naval Reserve, and from October of that year until June 1934 was attached to the THIRTY-SEVENTH Fleet Division, SEVENTH Battalion, SIXTH Naval Reserve Area, at St. Louis. Upon accepting his commission in the U. S. Navy, he was assigned to the USS ARIZONA, flagship of Battleship Division TWO, Battle Fleet, and while aboard was commended for zeal and efficiency in contributing to high main battery score for battleships. He was attached to the ship's aviation unit, Observation Squadron TWO-B for several months before his transfer late in 1936 to duty in the USS PRESTON, of Destroyers, Scouting Force.

From September 1938 to September 1941 he was a student of the Japanese language, at the American Embassy, Tokyo, Japan. He then reported to the Sixteenth Naval District Headquarters, at Cavite, Philippine Islands, for duty as a Communications Officer. After the United States troops at Bataan had surrendered to the Japanese he escaped Corregidor by motorboat and submarine to Australia, and from April 1942 until February 1943 served on the Staff of the Commander Allied Naval Forces, Southwestern Pacific.

Returning to the United States, he served from March 1943 to November 1944 in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. He was again ordered to the Pacific in December 1944, and throughout the remaining period of the war had communication duty at Headquarters, Fourteenth Naval District, Pearl Harbor, T. H. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," for "meritorious achievement while attached to the Division of Naval Communications, from December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1943..."; the Army Distinguished Unit Badge with Oak Leaf Cluster in recognition for service with the U. S. Navy Inshore Patrol in defense of the Philippines under Army command during the period December 7, 1941 to April 9, 1942; and the Navy Unit Commendation for service with the United States Naval Communication Intelligence Organization during the period December 7, 1941 to September 2, 1945.

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He was attached to the General Headquarters, U. S. Army Forces, Pacific, in August 1945, and was included in the first contingent of U. S. Forces to set foot in Japan after the capitulation of the Japanese. He remained in Japan with the Occupation Forces from August to November 1945.

He continued work in communications when he returned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in November 1945, and after detachment in December 1946, was a student at the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia, for six months. He commanded the USS NOA (DD-841), from June 1947 to April 1948. In May of that year he was transferred to duty in the Office of Naval Intelligence, where he remained until November 1951, when he became Assistant Head of the Security Branch, Communications Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Administration).

In May 1953 he was detached with orders to the National Security Agency Directorate, Washington, D. C., and in December of the same year was transferred to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. On March 17, 1955 he was ordered to duty on the Staff of Commander Naval Forces, Far East, as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence and a year later was transferred to the Staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, again as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

He received a Letter of Commendation, with Ribbon, from the Secretary of the Navy as follows: "For meritorious achievement as a Member of the Staff of Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet, during the period January-March 1959. Exercising outstanding initiative, foresight, and sound judgment, Captain Taylor was instrumental in the acquisition of unique information of the highest value to the planning and conduct of future naval operations. By his unusual professional ability and tireless devotion to the fulfillment of an exacting assignment, he made a major contribution to the planning of naval warfare and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

On April 9, 1959, he was ordered detached for further duty in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department. There he served first as Assistant Director for Foreign Intelligence, later as Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence. On June 24, 1963 he became Assistant Chief of Naval Operations (Intelligence) and Director of Naval Intelligence and in April 1966 was designated Deputy Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, D. C.

In addition to the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V," the Commendation Ribbon, the Army Distinguished Unit Badge with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Admiral Taylor has the American Defense Service Medal with star; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with stars; American Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal, Asia Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; and the Philippine Defense Ribbon with star.

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Rear Admiral Taylor and his wife, Mrs. Karin Gerdtz Taylor, have three children: Rufus L. Taylor, III, Carol Inga Taylor, and Lisa Noel Taylor. They currently reside in Sandy Spring, Maryland. They reside in Quarters "V," Navy Yard Annex, Washington, D. C.

NAVY - Office of Information
Internal Relations Division (OI-430)
5 May 1966